

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An information transmission apparatus, comprising:

reception means for receiving a plurality of taste information that represent respective tastes of a plurality of users from a plurality of terminal apparatuses of the plurality of users;

storage means for storing the received plurality of taste information and ~~attribute~~ group information ~~corresponding to each of~~ associated with the plurality of users;

search means for searching for at least two taste information having a resemblance to each other from the plurality of taste information stored in the storage means;

retrieval means for retrieving at least ~~the attribute~~ taste information or group information associated with a first user of the at least two taste information searched by the search means, the retrieved taste information or group information not being associated with a second user of the at least two taste information; and

transmission means for transmitting the retrieved ~~attribute~~ taste information or group information to a terminal apparatus ~~of a user~~ corresponding to ~~any one~~ the second user of the at least two taste information ~~and not corresponding to the retrieved attribute information.~~

2-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) An information transmission method, comprising:

a reception step of receiving a plurality of taste information that represent respective tastes of a plurality of users from a plurality of terminal apparatuses of the plurality of users;

a search step of searching for at least two taste information having a resemblance to each other from the plurality of taste information stored in a predetermined storage unit; and

a transmission step of transmitting at least ~~attribute~~ taste information or group information associated with a first user of the at least two taste information searched in the search step to a terminal apparatus ~~[[of]]~~ corresponding to a second user ~~corresponding to any one of the at least two taste information, and not corresponding to the~~ transmitted taste information or group attribute information not being associated with the second user of the at least two taste information.

12. (Currently Amended) The information transmission method according to claim 11, wherein

the transmission step transmits at least the group information that represents groups that the plurality of users belong to and that ~~corresponds to~~ is associated with the first user of the at least two taste information ~~as the attribute information~~ to the terminal apparatus of the second user.

13. (Currently Amended) The information transmission method according to claim 11, wherein

the reception step receives a part of the plurality of taste information as search key information;

the search step searches for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information of the plurality of users stored in the predetermined storage unit; and

the transmission step transmits at least the group information that represents groups that the plurality of users belong to and that ~~corresponds to~~ is associated with the first user of the at least two taste information ~~as the attribute information~~ to the terminal apparatus of the second user.

14. (Currently Amended) The information transmission method according to claim 11, wherein

the transmission step transmits at least the ~~at least two~~ taste information of the first user and the group information that represents groups that the plurality of users belong to and that ~~corresponds to~~ is associated with the first user of the at least two taste information ~~as the attribute information~~ to the terminal apparatus of the second user.

15. (Currently Amended) The information transmission method according to claim 11, wherein

the reception step receives a part of the plurality of taste information as search key information;

the search step searches for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information of the plurality of users stored in the predetermined storage unit; and

the transmission step transmits at least the ~~at least two~~ taste information of the first user and the group information that represents groups that the plurality of users belong to and that ~~corresponds to~~ is associated with the first user of the at least two taste information ~~as the attribute information~~ to the terminal apparatus of the second user.

16. (Currently Amended) An information reception method of a terminal apparatus, the information reception method comprising:

a transmission step of transmitting taste information that represents a taste of a first user to a predetermined apparatus that stores a plurality of taste information that represent respective tastes of a plurality of users; and

a reception step of receiving ~~attribute~~ taste information or group information associated with a second user of at least two taste information, the ~~attribute~~ received taste information or group information not being associated with the first user of the at least two taste information and being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the taste information at least transmits to the terminal apparatus ~~of the user~~ corresponding to the first user ~~any one of the at least two taste information and not corresponding to the attribute information,~~ after searching for the at least two taste information having a resemblance to each other from the plurality of taste information stored therein.

17. (Currently Amended) The information reception method of a terminal apparatus according to claim 16, wherein

the reception step receives the group information that represents groups that the plurality of users belong to and that ~~corresponds to~~ is associated with the second user of the at least two taste information as the attribute information, the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the taste information at least transmits after the searching.

18. (Currently Amended) The information reception method of a terminal apparatus according to claim 16, wherein

the transmission step transmits a part of the taste information as search key information to the predetermined apparatus; and

the reception step receives the group information that represents groups that the plurality of users belong to and that ~~corresponds to~~ is associated with the second user of the at least two taste information as the attribute information, the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the search key information at

least transmits after the searching for the at least two taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored therein.

19. (Currently Amended) The information reception method of a terminal apparatus according to claim 16, wherein

the reception step receives ~~[[the]]~~ at least ~~[[two]]~~ the taste information of the second user and the group information that represents groups that the plurality of users belong to and that ~~corresponds to~~ is associated with the second user of the at least two taste information as ~~the attribute information~~, the ~~at least two~~ taste information and the group information of the second user being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the taste information of the first user at least transmits after the searching.

20. (Currently Amended) The information reception method of a terminal apparatus according to claim 16, wherein

the transmission step transmits a part of the taste information as search key information to the predetermined apparatus; and

the reception step receives ~~[[the]]~~ at least ~~[[two]]~~ the taste information of the second user and the group information that represents groups that the plurality of users belong to and that ~~corresponds to~~ is associated with the second user of the at least two taste information as ~~the attribute information~~, the ~~at least two~~ taste information and the group information of the second user being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the search key information at least transmits after the searching for the at least two taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored therein.

21. (Currently Amended) An information transmission apparatus, comprising:

a reception unit configured to receive a plurality of taste information that represent respective tastes of a plurality of users from a plurality of terminal apparatuses of the plurality of users;

a storage unit configured to store the received plurality of taste information and ~~attribute group~~ information ~~corresponding to each of~~ associated with the plurality of users;

a search unit configured to search for at least two taste information having a resemblance to each other from the plurality of taste information stored in the storage unit;

a retrieval unit configured to retrieve at least ~~the attribute~~ taste information or group information associated with a first user of the at least two taste information searched by the search unit, the retrieved taste information or group information not being associated with a second user of the at least two taste information; and

a transmission unit configured to transmit the retrieved ~~attribute~~ taste information or group information to a terminal apparatus ~~of a user~~ corresponding to ~~any one~~ the second user of the at least two taste information ~~and not corresponding to the retrieved attribute~~ information.

22. (Currently Amended) The information transmission apparatus according to claim 21, wherein

the transmission unit is configured to transmit at least the group information that represents groups that the plurality of users belong to and that ~~corresponds to~~ is associated with the first user of the at least two taste information ~~as the attribute information~~ to the terminal apparatus of the second user.

23. (Currently Amended) The information transmission apparatus according to claim 21, wherein

the reception unit is configured to receive a part of the plurality of taste information as search key information;

the search unit is configured to search for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored in the storage ~~means~~ unit; and

the transmission unit is configured to transmit at least the group information that represents groups that the plurality of users belong to and that ~~corresponds to~~ is associated with the first user of the at least two taste information ~~as the attribute information~~ to the terminal apparatus of the second user.

24. (Currently Amended) The information transmission apparatus according to claim 21, wherein

the transmission unit is configured to transmit at least the ~~at least two~~ taste information of the first user and the group information that represents groups that the plurality of users belong to and that ~~corresponds to~~ is associated with the first user of the at least two taste information ~~as the attribute information~~ to the terminal apparatus of the second user.

25. (Currently Amended) The information transmission apparatus according to claim 21, wherein

the reception unit is configured to receive a part of the plurality of taste information as search key information;

the search unit is configured to search for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored in the storage ~~means~~ unit; and

the transmission unit is configured to transmit at least the ~~at least two~~ taste information of the first user and the group information that represents groups that the

plurality of users belong to and that ~~corresponds to~~ is associated with the first user of the at least two taste information ~~as the attribute information~~ to the terminal apparatus of the second user.

26. (Currently Amended) A terminal apparatus, comprising:

a transmission unit configured to transmit taste information that represents a taste of a first user to a predetermined apparatus that stores a plurality of taste information that represent respective tastes of a plurality of users; and

a reception unit configured to receive ~~attribute~~ taste information or group information associated with a second user of at least two taste information, the ~~attribute~~ received taste information or group information not being associated with the first user of the at least two taste information and being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the plurality of taste information at least transmits to the terminal apparatus ~~[[of]]~~ corresponding to the first user ~~corresponding to any one~~ of the at least two taste information ~~and not corresponding to the attribute information~~, after searching for the at least two taste information having a resemblance to each other from the plurality of taste information stored therein.

27. (Currently Amended) The terminal apparatus according to claim 26, wherein

the reception unit is configured to receive the group information that represents groups that the plurality of users belong to and that ~~corresponds to~~ is associated with the second user of the at least two taste information ~~as the attribute information~~, the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the taste information at least transmits after the searching.

28. (Currently Amended) The terminal apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the transmission unit is configured to transmit a part of the taste information as search key information to the predetermined apparatus; and

the reception unit is configured to receive the group information that represents groups that the plurality of users belong to and that ~~corresponds to~~ is associated with the second user of the at least two taste information ~~as the attribute information~~, the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the search key information at least transmits after the searching for the at least two taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored therein.

29. (Currently Amended) The terminal apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the reception unit is configured to receive ~~[[the]]~~ at least ~~[[two]]~~ the taste information of the second user and the group information that represents groups that the plurality of users belong to and that ~~corresponds to~~ is associated with the second user of the at least two taste information ~~as the attribute information~~, the ~~at least two~~ taste information and the group information of the second user being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the taste information of the first user at least transmits after the searching.

30. (Currently Amended) The terminal apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the transmission unit is configured to transmit a part of the taste information as search key information to the predetermined apparatus; and

the reception unit is configured to receive ~~[[the]]~~ at least ~~[[two]]~~ the taste information of the second user and the group information that represents groups that the plurality of users belong to and that ~~corresponds to~~ is associated with the second user of the at least two taste information ~~as the attribute information~~, the ~~at least two~~ taste information and the group

information of the second user being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the search key information at least transmits after the searching for the at least two taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored therein.

31. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having embedded therein instructions, which when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method, comprising:

receiving a plurality of taste information that represent respective tastes of a plurality of users from a plurality of terminal apparatuses of the plurality of users;

storing the received plurality of taste information and ~~attribute~~ group information ~~corresponding to each of~~ associated with the plurality of users;

searching for at least two taste information having a resemblance to each other from the plurality of taste information stored in the storing;

retrieving at least ~~the attribute~~ taste information or group information associated with a first user of the at least two taste information searched in the searching, the retrieved taste information or group information not being associated with a second user of the at least two taste information; and

transmitting the retrieved ~~attribute~~ taste information or group information to a terminal apparatus ~~of a user~~ corresponding to ~~any one~~ the second user of the at least two taste information ~~and not corresponding to the retrieved attribute information~~.

32. (Currently Amended) An information transmission apparatus, comprising:

reception means for receiving a plurality of taste information that represent respective tastes of a plurality of users from a plurality of terminal apparatuses of the plurality of users;

storage means for storing the received plurality of taste information and ~~attribute~~
~~group~~ information ~~corresponding to each of~~ associated with the plurality of users;

search means for searching for at least two taste information having a resemblance to
each other from the plurality of taste information stored in the storage means; and

transmission means for transmitting at least ~~the attribute~~ taste information or group
information associated with a first user of the at least two taste information to a terminal
apparatus ~~of a user~~ corresponding to ~~any one~~ a second user of the at least two taste
information ~~and not corresponding to the attribute information~~, when the reception means
receives ~~[[the]]~~ taste information from one of the plurality of users, wherein

the transmitted taste information or group information is not associated with the
second user of the at least two taste information.

33. (Currently Amended) An information reception apparatus, comprising:

transmission means for transmitting taste information that represents a taste of a first
user to a server;

reception means for receiving at least ~~attribute~~ taste information or group information
associated with a second user of at least two taste information, from the server, the ~~attribute~~
taste information or group information being transmitted to a terminal apparatus ~~of a user~~
corresponding to ~~any one~~ the first user of the at least two taste information ~~and not~~
~~corresponding to the attribute information~~; and

registration means for registering the received ~~attribute~~ taste information or group
information as said first user's ~~attribute~~ taste information or group information, wherein

the at least two taste information have a resemblance to each other and are searched
by the server from a plurality of taste information that represent respective tastes of a
plurality of users stored in the server, and

the received taste information or group information is not associated with the first user of the at least two taste information.